

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH REFER

The Board heard reports by Kachalkin and Popov on the state of public health in Stalingrad Oblast and in the city of Stalingrad. After the reports, a commission of the Ministry of Public Health conducted a tour of inspection. The following were noted:

In 1947 there were 130 hospitals in Stalingrad City; in 1948 there were 346 dispensary-polyclinics. The commission noted, however, that in many cases the quality and quantity of equipment did not keep pace with the increase in the number of institutions; as a result, several do not have enough equipment.

In 1948 there was a decrease in the number of dysentery cases (16.9 percent less), toxic dyspepsia (66 percent less), diphtheria (21 percent less) etc. However, this decrease does not mean that the problem of these diseases is any less important.

The Board commended the Stalingrad Oblast Public Health Department's work in conducting mass physical examination of the oblast's population to determine the existence of malignant growths.

During 1948 the various Oblast Public Health Departments conducted an intensified program for the training of specialists for Rayon hospitals. However, there are many requirements which still have to be met. Some 16 Rayons still do not have any surgeons. Thirty-seven rayons have poor obstetrical and gynecological service due to the fact that their medical institutions are staffed with doctors who graduated in 1948 and are inexperienced in obstetrical and gynecological techniques.

It was noted that Oblast specialists were incompetent. This was particularly noticeable among therapists, physiatrists, and ophthalmologists. The complicated oblast organizations for the control of malaria and tuberculosis were not functioning smoothly.

Much graver faults were found in the Municipal Public Health Departments. Many of the hospitals and polyclinics are located in temporary buildings unsuitable for medical purposes. There is no analysis of the health situation in the city

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of Stalingrad. There is only one hospital which has facilities for pathologico-anatomical observations. The Public Health Department itself is staffed with young doctors, and there is no comprehensive plan for the training of specialists.

Antiepidemic work is very poorly organized. The program is handled by unqualified personnel. Sanitation organizations are not cleaning up inhabited locations. The Public Health Department does not seem to be concerned with any of the important problems which exist.

The Board suggested that the Oblast and Municipal Public Health Departments improve their organization and operation. It was also suggested that the personnel of chairs and clinics in medical institutions cooperate with the Public Health Department to cope with the various problems. It was urged that the Public Health Department cooperate with the Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology in a 2-month plan to determine the sources of infection and the courses of infectious diseases in the city of Stalingrad. Plans must be set up for efficient control of malaria, tuberculosis, and cancer.

The Board agreed to cooperate in the general improvement plan by seeing to it that medical institutions and enterprises obtain the necessary equipment.

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